

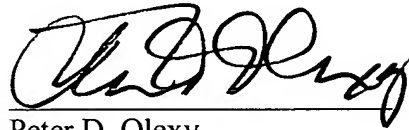
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

**REMARKS**

Multiple dependency is removed from the claims.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter D. Olexy", written over a horizontal line.

Peter D. Olexy  
Registration No. 24,513

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 27, 2004